facilities for the railway traffic in industrially backward states during the last three years;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in the implementation of railway expansion scheme in Rajasthan.

(c) whether the Government propose to link district head-quarters by railway line; and

(d) if so, by what time?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Conversion works of Phulera-Bikaner-Lalgarh, Merta Road-Jodhpur, Bhildi-Samdari and Sawaimadhopur-Jaipur and construction of parallel BG lines from Samdari to Jodhpur and from Jaipur to Phulera have been taken up.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction work of Ratlam Division

*313. SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made and targets achieved in regard to the construction works in Ratlam Division of Western Railway in the context of Kumbha "Singhastha" to be held in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh in April, 1992.

(b) whether the facilities of inquiry, retiring rooms etc. are available at the platform of Nagda Junction in Ratlam Division; and

(c) whether the work programme has been formulated for Nagda Mandi and Birla Gram for the independent development of Nagda Railway Station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) In connection with 'Sinhastha Fair' to be held at Ujjain in April 1992, following works have been taken in hand at Ujjain on Ratlam Division of Western Railway:—

Sl.	*Name of work*	*Progress*
1.	Facilities in connection with Sinhastha Fair—providing new station building with waiting hall, booking and reservation Office	5%
2.	Provision of Pilgrims platform additional foot-over bridge, extension to cover over platforms and circulating area . . .	15%
3.	Provision of a 50-bedded rail yatri niwas	45%

These works are in various stages of progress and will be completed before the Sinhastha Fair.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Works regarding provision of waiting shed, booking office and improvement to circulating area have already been completed on Birla Gram side of Nagda Station. Adequate facilities already exist on the Nagda Mandi side of the Nagda Station.

[*English*]

Suburban Services to Calcutta and Howrah

*315. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the need for additional rakes/coaches for increasing the suburban services to Calcutta and Howrah;

(b) the details of the present stock of rakes/coaches, the number of rakes/coaches actually available for service and the number needed for service in the Sealdah and Howrah divisions of Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway; and

(c) the number of overage coaches/rakes still in service?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present holding of EMUs on Eastern and South Eastern Railways is 135 rakes/1245 coaches, both for traffic service requirements as well as for running maintenance and periodic overhaul.

(c) 157 coaches as on 1-4-1991.

Railway Line from Ambaguda to Kesinga (SER)

*316. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a railway line from Ambaguda to Kesinga in Waltair Division;

(b) if so, whether the survey for this project has been completed;

(c) the cost of the project and when it is proposed to be constructed; and

(d) the places in Koraput and Kalahandi districts likely to be connected by this railway line?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Though no survey has been done from Amagura-Kesinga, a survey was done in 1965-66 from Lanjigarh Road to Amagura. Keeping in view the proposed Alumina Plant near Bhawanipatna, survey for part of the route from Lanjigarh Road (Near Kesinga) to Junagarh has been updated in 1990-91. Construction of the line from Lanjigarh Road to Junagarh (54 km) at a cost of Rs. 80 crores has been approved by the Planning Commission for being taken up subject to the coming up of the Alumina Plant. The surveyed line passes through Bhawanipatna.

ONGC Complex at Ramanathapuram

*317. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount to be spent on drilling operations in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up an Oil and Natural Gas Commission office complex at Ramanathapuram;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Two wells have been drilled in the past at a cost of Rs. 0.7 crores. Four wells are to be drilled at an estimated cost of Rs. 13 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Oil Exploration and Production by Indian and Foreign Companies

*318. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE:
SHRI INDARJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to invite tenders from the international and national oil companies for accelerating the pace of crude oil production and exploration;